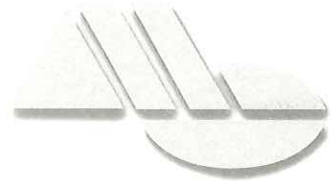


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MOLZEN-CORBIN
& Associates

ENGINEERS/ARCHITECTS/PLANNERS

June 21, 2005

Ms. Stephanie Dubois
Project Manager
Construction Programs Bureau
Environment Department
State of New Mexico
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

6-21-05
Cindy Mohler hand-delivered
to S. DuBois

**RE: Village of Ruidoso and City of Ruidoso
Review of Draft Preliminary Engineering Report for Wastewater Treatment Improvements**

Dear Ms. Dubois:

I have been asked by Ms. Lorri McKnight and Mr. John Waters, Managers of the Village of Ruidoso and City of Ruidoso Downs, respectively, to respond to your comments contained in your letter to them dated May 18, 2005. For your convenience, I have noted your comments in italics followed by my response.

1. *Report must be stamped, signed, and dated by a registered professional engineer.*

You are correct that the final report should be stamped by a professional engineer. We will stamp and sign the final report once all review comments have been incorporated. We do not usually stamp draft copies until they become a final product.

2. *Environmental Resources Present, Page 2-6: According to the PER, the environmental resources will be identified in the environmental information document. When will this be ready for review?*

The draft Environmental Information Document was recently completed by Taschek Environmental and has been submitted to the Village of Ruidoso/City of Ruidoso Downs for review. Once the document has been reviewed by Ruidoso/Ruidoso Downs, it will be submitted to NMED for review.

3. *Project History, Page 3-8: The NPDES permit expiration date is incorrect on Table 3-2. According to appendix B, the NPDES permit expires on 8-31-05, not 2007 as referenced on the table. Please verify and correct.*

Thank you for catching this mistake. You are correct. The expiration date of the Permit will be corrected in Table 3-2 to show 8-31-05.

Ms. Stephanie Dubois
June 21, 2005
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4. *Influent and RAS Pump Replacement, Page 6-5: Back-up emergency power for the pump stations should be considered in case of a power failure?*

You are absolutely correct. Although not specifically stated in the referenced paragraph, the design of the facilities will include emergency power to be compliant with EPA Reliability Standards (and NMED design guidelines).

5. *Will either of the two recommended alternatives, Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) or Simultaneous Nitrification & Denitrification process require a higher level of operator than what the Village/City currently has?*

No. Both alternatives will require a Level IV operator(s) which the Village/City already have on staff.

6. *The PER should identify all sources of funding and how the Village/City will pay for the proposed \$23 million wastewater treatment plant improvements.*

As you know, the funding of the project is a major challenge to both the Village of Ruidoso and the City of Ruidoso Downs. The communities are currently exploring funding options and those options will be developed prior to the public hearing for the project and included in Section 6 of the final PER.

7. *PER should also identify how the average cost per connection per month for sewer service would be affected with the proposed improvements.*

As in the response for comment 6 above, the communities are exploring all funding options and the potential effect of the project on all user fees in both communities and will be included in the final PER.

I trust the information contained herein will be helpful to you in your review. If you have other questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Lorri McKnight or Mr. John Waters.

Sincerely,

MOLZEN-CORBIN & ASSOCIATES



Adelmo E. Archuleta, P.E.

AEA:jgo

cc: Ms. Lorri McKnight, Village Manager, Village of Ruidoso
Mr. John Waters, City Administrator, City of Ruidoso Downs